

**Sewickley Patch**  
**January 11, 2012**

By: Jessica Sinichak

As someone who has championed bringing manufacturing jobs lost overseas back to America, U.S. Rep Jason Altmire, D-McCandless, said an award he received Tuesday honoring that work had special meaning for him.

In a presentation at the Cranberry Township Municipal Center, the Coalition for a Prosperous America gave the congressman the Carl E. Jones Champion for American Producers Award.

"I'm grateful for this award because it shows that the work we've done in my time in Congress has helped the American manufacturers," Altmire said. "The cause moving forward is we have to continue to be as competitive as we possibly can be to continue to win these jobs and bring them back home."

Representing more than 2.7 million people in the manufacturing, agriculture and labor fields, the Coalition for a Prosperous America is a national nonprofit dedicated to promoting trade policies that benefit American workers. The late Carl E. Jones founded Penn United, a high-precision metal manufacturer in Butler County and was a key member of CPA.

The award, which does not take into account political parties, was given for the first time last year to U.S. Rep Tim Murphy, R-Upper St. Clair, and U.S. Rep Tim Ryan, a democrat out of Ohio, for their work co-authoring the Currency Reform for Fair Trade Act.

The bill, which Altmire said he voted in favor of, would have imposed tariffs on countries that undervalue their currency. The act passed the House in 2010, but the bill never made it to the senate floor.

Penn United's Dave Frengel, chairman of the Pennsylvanian chapter of the coalition, said Altmire was chosen for the award based on his "congressional trade grade," the evaluation the coalition assigns elected officials based on their votes and actions regarding manufacturing policies.

"Mr. Altmire's trade grade is 100 percent," he said.